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NEW PRISONS; TRIALS, ARRESTS IN BULGARIA

CONSTRUCTION OF NEW PRISONS -- Vienna, Interreport-Ost, 16 May 53

A reliable source from Bulgaria reports the near completion of the largest and the most modern prison in the village of Birimirtsi near Sofia. This prison has been designed to hold 7,000 prisoners. A second prison, with a section for yomen, has been completed near Kolarovgrad. Other prisons are being provided with annexes or provisional quarters for prisoners.

These measures are attributed to the constantly rising number of prisoners. The exact number of prisoners in Bulgaria cannot be determined, since many Bulgarian citizens are imprisoned without being sentenced. According to wellinformed sources, the number of prisoners sentenced for political reasons alone amounts to about 21,000. The number imprisoned without a court sentence [trial?]

From 9 Ceptember 1944 until February 1948, the prisons were under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Justice and were administered according to a law which was valid before the Communists took power. A special law of 28 February 1948 transferred the administration of the prisons from the Ministry of Justice to the Ministry of Interior. This law gave the police complete control of Bulgarian prisoners. A systematic liquidation of all the political elements unfavorable to the regime began, and a "new order" was introduced.

The new prison administration is headed by a clief director and two deputy directors, all members of the State Security. The chief director directs and supervises the activity of the prison staff and the behavior of the prisoners. One deputy director is a political commissar in charge of the political training of prisoners. He organizes evening courses and discussions, for which the prisoners must study the textbooks of Marxism, Leninism, and Stalinism. The political commissar is aided in his work by a number of assigned lecturers. He is authorized to invite agitators from party agitator groups, who conduct training programs for the prisoners.

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The second deputy director is in charge of administration: He is directly responsible for the "correct and expedient" utilization of prison labor. Whether the political deputy or the administrative director assigns prisoners to work depends on the category of the prisoners. The prisoners work in agriculture, build vehicles, or perform general work in a state or party enterprise located in the same area as the prison. Work units are designated as "very dangerous," "dangerous," and "not very dangerous."

The reason for the amnesty propaganda and the building of new prisons can be seen from the fact that, although the central prison in Sofia is supposed to hold 800 prisoners, the number of prisoners in the last few months has never been under 3,500.

TRIAL OF FORMER RKS EMPLOYEES -- Lom, Narodna Tribuna, 22 Aug 53

On 18 August 1953, the trial of 18 former employees of RKS (Rayonnen kooperativen suyuz, Rayon Cooperative Union) began in Lom. The trial is directed by the Vratsa Okrug Court. The presiding Judge is Vurban Pavlov and the other Judges are Viden Petkov and Pero Pilyushki. Eftim Stoinenov is the public prosecutor. Those on trial are Georgi Aleksandrov, Krum Yordanov Sofroniev, aton Ivanov Gavrilov, Rangel Lazarov Vandolov, Purvan Iosifov Vurdarski, Blagoy Kirilov, Bekyarov (fnu), Stoyan Elenkov Datsov, Iliya Goranov Ivanov, Lyubov Vecheslav Sokolova, Mikhail Pavlov Purvanov, Ivan Elenkov Datsov, Georgi Siliyanov, Lyubon Petkov Stoyanov, Andrey Zakhariov Angelov, Nikola Georgiev Tsenov, Ivan Moyseev Lazarov, and Georgi Ivanov Angelov. The above are accused of having caused financial losses to the state.

MILITIA AND STATE SECURITY BOAST OF ARRESTS -- Gabrovo, Stukhanovski Glas, 15 Sep 53

Last year, the militia and the State Security arrested criminals such as Iliya Kunchev, Yordan Stavrev, and Ivan Boev, all of whom sold second-grade meat as first-grade meat on the Gabrovo market. In addition to stealing from the people, some of these criminals tried to induce the people to hate the people's government. Such a person is Ivan R. Vasilev of the "Komunalni uslugi" GSP ("Communal Services" Communal Economic Enterprise), who misused funds, etc., and was sentenced to 5 years in prison. Nikola D. Dunev, a finance agent in the Gabrovo Okoliya People's Soviet, accepted bribes from dishonorable citizens to decrease their taxes.

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